Messers Kantilal G. Nagar and Ramesh Kumar Agarwal in the Gujarat High Court;

(d) whether the criminal complaints in (a) and (b) and Criminal application in (c) as above have since seen disposed off; if so, the outcome thereof; if not what is the present position of each and what steps Government propose for their expeditious disposal;

(e) the details of the property attached by the Tax Recovery Officer (Central), Ahmedabad for recovery of taxes due for the assessment year 1981-82 and whether the taxes due have since been recovered; and

(f) the present position of the cases transferred to Central Charges for coordinated investigation, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The brief facts of the case are that the Officers of the Income-tax Department during the course of search, sealed the premises and shop bearing No. 162, New Cloth Market, Ahmedabad on 26-6-1981 and issued a prohibitory order. In the early hours of 27-6-1981, the accused were found in prosession of certain books of accounts near the shop by the police constables who were posted on duty. The seals placed were found to have been broken. The Police Oficer submitted a charge-sheet against the accused in the court of the 4th Metropolitan Magistrate, Ahmedabad for the offence u/s 380 of the I.P.C. Criminal complaint No..1862/81 has been filed by the Police in the court of 4th Metropolitan Magistrate, Ahmedabad against Shri Kantilal G. Nagar. The Income-Tax Department also filed a complaint being criminal Case No. 1806/81 in the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Ahmedabad against Shri Kantilal G. Nagar and Shri Ramesh Kumar F. Agarwal for the offence punishable u/s. 275A of the Income Tax Act and u/s. 188 and 380 of the I.P.C. Thereafter, the two accused preferred a Miscellaneous Application No. 145/82 before the Gujarat High Court praying to quash and set-aside the process issued by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in the Criminial Case No. 1806/81 and further to stay the proceedings and also prayed the amalgamation of Criminal Case No. 1806/81 with Criminal Case No. 1862/81 which is pending in the Court of 4th Metropolitan Magistrate, Ahmedabad. The Miscellaneous Criminal Applications are pending in the High Court.

(d) These have not been disposed off so far. The matters are pending in the Gujarat High Court. The Hon'ble High Court is being moved through the Departmental Solicitors for fixing an early hearing in these cases.

(e) The following properties stand attached by the Tax Recovery Officer for recovery of the oustanding demand:—

(i) Super-structure of Shop No. 183 situated at New Cloth Market, Ahmedabad belonging to Smt. Sushiladevi Shivbhagwan Agarwal.

(ii) Right, title and interest in 12 powerlooms situated at 18 (shop No. 2) Maheshwari Industrial Estate, near Nagarwal Hanuman, Rakhial, running in the name of M/s. Sushil Textiles.

(f) Since the investigations in the cases are over, these cases have now been decentralised.

Opening of Office of International Finance Corporation in Delhi

2657. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation had sought the permission of Government to open its office in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main objective thereof;

(c) whether permission has since been granted in this regard; and

(d) what type of financial operation is proposed to be undertaken by International Finance Corporation in the country and in what ways the country is likely to be benefitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government of India had conveyed their permission to International Finance Corportion, Washinghton for expansion of its existing mission in India which is a part of the World Bank Office. This will enable IFC(W) to undertake further investment and faster project processing in response to the needs of its clients. The increased intaraction between Indian businessmen and IFC, and the expeditious processing of their proposals will increase IFC investment in India.

Nationalised Bank schemes for promoting agriculture in Orissa

2658. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nationalised Commercial Banks have been advised by Government to implement schemes to promote the growth of rural areas and agriculture; and

(b) if so, the various steps taken by different commercial banks to develop agriculture in Orissa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Agriculture is one of the major segments of 'Priority Sector'. Public Sector Banks have been asked to raise the proportion of their credit to priority sector to 40% of their total advances. Direct Finance extended to agriculture (including allied activities) are to reach 18% of their total credit and the advances to weaker section, which includes small and marginal farmers and landless cultivators and artisans, are to reach a level of 10% of their total credit or 25% of the priority sector advances. The farmers all over the country including State of Orissa are provided loans by public sector banks for agricultural and allied activities undertaken by them on their own or through any schemes framed by Government in this regard. The financing of such activities by the credit institutions is a part of their normal lending operations on a continued basis.

The amount of loans and advances disbursed for direct agriculture including allied activities by all scheduled commercial banks during the past three years ended June 1989 (latest available) in the State of Orissa is as follows:

	No. of A/cs	Rs. crores
June 1987	152736	58.2
June 1988	171770	63.5
June 1989	177151	81.1

As can be seen from the above the number of beneficiaries and the amount of advances granted for direct agriculture has shown an increasing trend.

A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase flow of credit to farmers, particularly small and marginal fanners. The important ones are:

1. The interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500/- is kept low at 11.5% p.a.
2. Term loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs are provided at concessional rates.
3. In the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers, the interest debited is not to exceed the principal amount.
4. In the case of crop failure, amount due should be rescheduled over a period of 3 to 5 years and fresh loans should be given to farmers.
5. No third party guarantee or collateral security is to be insisted upon for loans upto Rs. 10,000/-.
6. There should be no compounding of interest on current dues in agriculture sector.
7. No margin is required for agricultur-